

INFORMATION ABOUT GOING TO LIBERIA.

FOR the information of our friends we publish the following *questions* and *answers*. We are constantly receiving letters in which these questions are, in substance, asked. The spirit of inquiry about Liberia, and the means of getting there, is becoming every day more and more prevalent and earnest. We have, therefore, for the accommodation of ourselves, and the convenience of friends, condensed the facts into the following form:

Question 1. At what season of the year is it best to embark for Liberia?

Answer 1. The spring or fall is the time our vessels usually leave Norfolk. There is very little, if any, choice between these two seasons of the year, as a time to leave this country for Liberia. It is rather more convenient to fit out an expedition at these periods, than at any others, and therefore we have selected them, as the best time for the sailing of our vessels. Hereafter it is expected that the LIBERIA PACKET will make two voyages a year, and if business justifies, she will make three.

Q. 2. How long is the voyage, and is there much danger that we shall be lost on the way?

A. 2. The length of the voyage is from thirty to fifty days. The average is about forty days. We hope the Liberia Packet will make a much less average than this. The emigrants ought to be at the port of embarkation two days before the vessel sails. There is very little danger of being lost.

Q. 3. What ought we to take with us, both for use on the voyage and after we get there?

A. 3. Every emigrant ought to be well supplied with clothing, both for summer and winter, similar to what he wears in this country. There is no winter in Liberia, but during the rainy season, health is greatly promoted by wearing flannel, or warm clothing. He ought also to have a good mattress and bed clothes. If he is a mechanic, he ought to have the tools of his trade. If he is a farmer, he ought to be well supplied with axes, hoes, spades, saws, augers, &c. And as every family is expected to keep house and live for themselves, they ought to have a good supply of table furniture and cooking utensils. It is not possible for them to take *chairs, tables, bedsteads*, and other large articles of furniture with them, as they occupy too much room in the ship. But whatever is convenient and necessary in housekeeping and of small compass, they ought to take. A keg of nails, a bale or two of domestics, and some *money*, would be of use to them, in erecting their houses, and paying for any labor they might need, during the first few months of their residence in Liberia.

Q. 4. How much land is given to each emigrant?

A. 4. By the laws of Liberia, each emigrant on his arrival receives a town lot, or *five* acres of land. If he is the head of a family, the quantity of land is increased according to the number of his family. This allow-

ance may seem small, but it is abundantly sufficient for all his necessities until he is able to buy more for himself, which he can do for \$1 an acre.

Q. 5. Can I educate my children there, and what will it cost?

A. 5. By a law of the commonwealth, all parents are required to send their children to school. In some of the settlements the schools are very good. In others, they are more indifferent. But a parent who wants to educate his children can do it better in Liberia than in any other place.

Q. 6. Will the Colonization Society pay my expenses in getting there?

A. 6. The Colonization Society will give a free passage to all who are unable to pay for themselves, and will aid them in supporting themselves during the first six months after they arrive, by furnishing them with provisions, and medicines and medical attendance when they are sick, and providing them a house to live in. During these six months they can become acclimated, raise a crop for themselves, build them a house on their own land, open and plant a piece of land, and have everything in readiness to live comfortably thereafter.

Q. 7. How can we make a living in Liberia?

A. 7. In the same way that you would make one any where else; that is, by industry and *economy*.

Those who are competent to teach school, can get from three to four hundred dollars for teaching. Good accountants can get from four to eight hundred dollars as clerks in stores and mercantile houses. Tailors, shoemakers, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, brickmakers, cabinet makers,

shipwrights, &c., &c., can always find employment at good wages.—The farmer need fear no want.

This question has been answered by the *Editor* of the *Liberia Herald*, who has lived there many years, and we cannot do better than to give his own words, viz :

“For information of our friends, who are constantly and incorrectly asserting in America, that ‘Liberians have not any thing else to eat but roots and wild animals,’ we have thought proper to give a list of such animals, fruits, and edibles as are in general use with us in their appropriate season.

Domesticated.—Cows, bullocks, swine, sheep, goats, ducks, fowls, pigeons, turkeys, (few.)

Wild.—Deer of different kinds in abundance: red, black, brown, and grayish; partridge, pigeons, goats, cows, doves, hedge-hogs, red squirrels, summer ducks, rice birds, ground doves, &c.

Fruit.—Water melon, musk melon, mango plums, orange, rose apples, sour sop, guava, tamarind, plantain, bananas, grain-madilla, limes, lemons.

Fish, scaled and shell.—Mullet, whiting, perch, bream, pike, baracouta, mackerel, cursalli, herring, drum, catfish, grippers, oysters, crabs, carp, sun.

Edibles.—Sweet potatoes, arrow root, turnips, carrots, shilote, cymblain, chiota, paupau, Lima beans, ochra, peas, radishes, beets, cabbages, snaps, cucumbers, greens, salads, cassavas, yams, corn.

Besides the above, there are many others, which we have neither time nor room to arrange here.”

A F. RUSSELL, Esq., of Golah, Liberia, another citizen who has been there for years, writes on the same subject in the *Liberia Herald*, thus, viz : (He is speaking of what should be said to persons in the U. S., who think of going to Liberia.)

“If they be farmers, point them to the soil, the fertility of which cannot be exaggerated, producing every thing a tropical clime can produce in ample abundance, yet ‘by the sweat of the brow.’ The arm answering, though not necessarily in all cases, the place of the ox; (oxen can be bought at any time, thank God, for the money, and broke and worked too by those who choose it, and it has been done;) the hoe answering for the plough, if we rather, and in our light soil, does almost as well, per-

haps. Labor and patience, two-thirds of the labor, too, that it would take to support a man in the United States, will reward the workmen, thirty, sixty, a hundred fold—the profits will sweeten the toil.

A coffee tree once planted and reared (which takes four years) will yield its increase two crops a year, year after year, bringing its reward with it—a hundred, a thousand, and tens of thousands, will do the very same, and certainly the scions, or the seed, are to be bought in sufficient quantities in Liberia. Arrow root, ginger, pinders, and pepper, grow with almost half trouble, yielding in full abundance if planted. Indigo, &c. grow luxuriantly beyond all possible expectation; and as for fruits, the orange, lime, lemon, sour sop, guava, mango, &c., &c., we place Liberia against any country in the world, and with what a fraction of labor, compared with the benefits they yield. Vegetables—the yam, potatoes, cassada, plantains, Indian corn, beans, peas, &c., &c., useless to mention, time would fail us to tell. Put them in the earth, and they are as sure to produce as the God of nature is to bring about the seasons. Still the idle will not have them. The lazy man has no part in this lot of good things. Such truths would do us good. The word *labor* frightens the lazy man, and he will not curse us with his presence and example.—The industrious love that word, or the thing it means, will come determined to do, and coming will conquer and be rewarded.”

The Rev. J. B. PINNEY, so long and so well known as Gov. of Liberia, and since as an agent in this country, answers the question thus, viz:

“No man, by farming, can get a living without labor in any country but in Liberia, there being no snow, or frost, or cold to provide against, a large portion of the labor needed here for keeping warm and comfortable, is not needed there, and as it is always summer, much less land will support a family.

Another consideration may here be added, viz: that many important plants and vegetables continue to grow and bear from year to year, with very little cultivation. Our garden Lima beans, *I have seen* covering by its vines a good sized tree, where it had been growing and constantly bearing for *nine years!* Sweet potato vines are often, when pulled, replanted, and go on to bear more roots. The African potato, or cassada, grows for two years; the cotton plant bears for nine or ten years.”

Q. 8. Can I be as healthy in Liberia as I am in the United States.

A. 8. Probably not. Some consti-

tutions may be more healthy there than here. For old settlers, Liberia is doubtless more healthy than many parts of the United States. The deaths there, among such, for several years past, have not been more than three per cent.

We would here make this general remark, in connection with the last two questions. The great advantages, which the colored man gets by going to Liberia, are *not* as to his *eating, or drinking, or making money*, but in his *social, political, and moral* condition. He becomes a *man*. He is no longer despised as of another race, but is treated as an equal and a brother, and secures immense privileges for his children.—If colored men cannot understand and appreciate these and such like advantages, it is not worth their while to go to Liberia! Those who can and do appreciate them, and go to Liberia, will never regret it. Of such emigrants Mr. Russell, whose language we have before quoted, makes the following remarks:

“They not only see that all their labor is their own, every improvement belongs to themselves and children, good sound sense and industry tells them to go forward, and they obey, looking upon Liberia as theirs, and the home of their children; its strength their safety; its wealth their property, and its prosperity their glory, and the salvation from degradation of their children. Such men as these, though they cannot read a word, and, perhaps, never thought of writing, and, perhaps, spent much of their time in slavery, are an honor to any country, that would allow them equality. There are some of this stamp in Liberia, men ‘worth their weight in gold.’ They are industrious men, who look forward, who love their children.—Such men are not only good citizens, but patriotic colonists. One thousand of them would make the soil, and the ship, declara-

Liberia independent *without a human declaration*. As the hope of Liberia's glory, present as well as future glory, rising before such men, it beckons them onward.—They enjoy 'freedom' in every true sense of that word. They love our laws, because they are wholesome, they are ours made by legislators of our choice. They love liberty for what it is in and of itself.

Free from that oppression worse, if possible, than that of Israel in Egypt, under which he once groaned, the industrious public spirited man seizes and holds fast the hope of elevating not only his own, but the name and character of his country.—With life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, with and before him, with a right view of these things, what can hinder this colony from prospering? Or such men from being freemen? It is a startling truth, unless it has become 'a new thing under the sun,' that there is not a free black man from Georgia to Maine. No, nor in the whole United States! Nor will there be very soon, if we must judge from 'the signs of the times.'"

In conclusion, we have one particular request to make, viz: *That all persons intending to emigrate to Liberia, will give us early notice of the time when they will be ready.* It always requires considerable time to arrange necessary preliminaries, and make indispensable preparations: so that it not unfrequently happens that persons almost ready when the vessel sails, are compelled to wait for six months or a year, for the want of a few more days in which to get ready.

We trust that this suggestion will be duly regarded. There are many persons who are making inquiries in regard to the advantages of going to Liberia, who would be much benefitted by the suggestions which many of our friends might give them, or which they could obtain by opening a correspondence with us on the subject. There are no letters that we receive and answer with more plea-

sure than those which make inquiries about emigration to Liberia. We trust, therefore, that there will be some special efforts made to place the colored people in possession of the facts relating to their prospects in Liberia. We are expecting soon to send out a large number of the more intelligent and educated class. The present independent position of Liberia, renders this very desirable. They have assumed the entire responsibility of their own government, and will demand all the talent, wisdom and energy they can summon to their aid. We should think that the very most intelligent and wealthy colored people in this country would have some ambition to share in the splendid results, soon to be achieved through the agency of the colonists, for Liberia. Surely, to aid in laying the foundation for a great nation, in maturing institutions and laws for the government of a great people, and in redeeming an immense continent from the worst of Pagan darkness and barbarity, is a work infinitely more sublime and glorious than can possibly be performed by any of the colored people in *this country*, however favored may be their position, enlarged their opportunities, and determined their energy and perseverance! When the historian comes to write up the labors of their race, who will stand far above all comparison, if not the bold and successful pioneers in the only successful effort ever made for their social, civil, and religious redemption?

